

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /057 W
-----281834Z 012715 /44

R 281750Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3934
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2620

BRASILIA AND CARACAS PLEASE PASS DAO'S

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, GY, VE
SUBJECT: GUYANESE MILITARY INCURSIONS ON VENEZUELAN TERRITORY

REF: USDAO CARACAS DTG 231939Z DEC 76 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL HAS RAISED SEVERAL INTERESTING QUESTIONS HERE.
WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WERE 500 CUBANS IN THE GROUP
MENTIONED PARA 3, NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOG HAS THE
CAPABILITY TO AIRLIFT SUCH A GROUP. WE DO BELIEVE THAT
THE UNIT WAS MOST LIKELY COMPRISED OF GDF TROOPS.
NEVERTHELESS, A GUYANESE PATROL LOCATED ABOUT 15 KM
INSIDE VENEZUELA APPEARS TO BE A PROVOCATIVE ACT ON THE
PART OF THE GUYANESE, OR DOES USDAO CARACAS CONSIDER
THIS ACTIVITY NORMAL?

2. OUR LIMITED INFORMATION ABOUT GDF TACTICAL DISPOSITIONS
INDICATES THAT A UNIT OF 45 ARMED PERSONNEL IS
CONSIDERED A VERY LARGE FORCE, ESPECIALLY FOR
PRESUMABLY BORDER PATROL FUNCTIONS. WE UNDERSTAND
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THAT NORMAL GDF PATROLS COMPRISE APPROXIMATELY
10-15 MEN.

3. SHOULD USDAO GET COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS
MENTIONED PARA 4 REFTEL, EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPIES. WE MIGHT BE ABLE

TO IDENTIFY LT. BRUCE. ONE OTHER QUESTION
WHICH USDAO MAY BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS WHY WAS SUCH
A HIGH-LEVEL GOV GROUP INVOLVED IN WHAT
PURPORTEDLY WAS A MISSION CONCERNING LOCAL
BANDITRY. ARE VENEZUELANS CONCERNED THAT THE
GDF UNITS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHING ATTACKS AGAINST LOCAL
POPULACE IN BORDER REGION? THE IMPLICATIONS OF
SUCH ACTIONS BY THE GDF COULD BE VERY SERIOUS FOR
FUTURE GOG-GOV RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH A CONVENIENT
BORDER INCIDENT MAY BE THE THING THAT BURNHAM
NEEDS TO JUSTIFY HIS PRESENT HEAVY EXPENDITURES
IN EXPANDING NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.
MCCOY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, MILITARY BUILDUP, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, BORDER GUARDS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE02620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760474-0239
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761211/aaaaairk.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANESE MILITARY INCURSIONS ON VENEZUELAN TERRITORY
TAGS: MILI, GY, VE, US
To: STATE CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006